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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU



DEATH

IS A DARK ANGEL!



GENE DAY

SCOTTIE

A Cracker Jack story

OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.

I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH.

STRIKE ONE!

GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT???

STRIKE TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.

ZOOM!

WHAP!

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD- THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!

WHAT A CRACKER JACK!

CRACK HOME RUN

Crunchy caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts and a secret toy surprise!

Cracker Jack.
CANDIED POPCORN AND PEANUTS

Toy Surprise INSIDE!

BORN

NET WT. 4 1/4 OZ.

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

THE DARK ANGEL'S KISS

"THE DEATH OF LOVE IS MUCH LIKE THE DEATH OF LIFE ITSELF, FOR WITHOUT LOVE, LIFE BECOMES A PALE SHADOW OF BEING."

DOUG MOENCH • WRITER

"SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE SOVIET KGB DEFECTOR-- SHE, WHO IS KNOWN AS THE DARK ANGEL OF DEATH-- THE LOVE BETWEEN OLIVE RESTON AND MELISSA GREVILLE HAS BEEN TORN."

"IT TEARS ME, TOO, TO SEE IT."

JACK ABEL • INKER

GENE DAY • ILLUSTRATOR

JIM NOVAK • LETTERS

C. SCHEELE • COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO • EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"WILL THE LOVE OF OTHERS SIMILARLY BE PARTED...?"



MASTER OF KUNG FU® Vol. 1, No. 102, February, 1982. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022, SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1981 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues. Canada, \$8.20. Foreign, \$9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

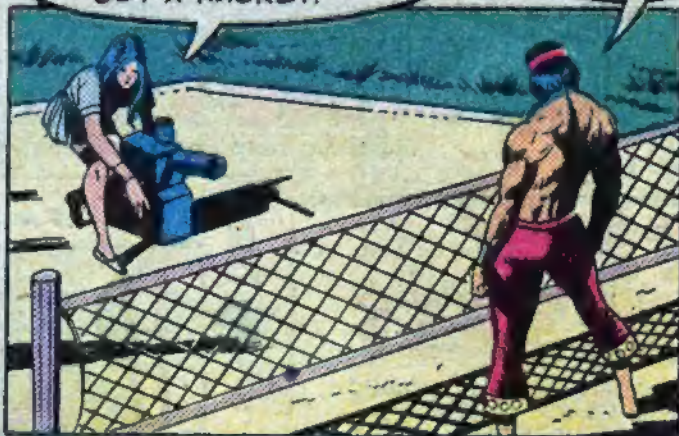
"SIR DENIS HAYLAND SMITH'S CASTLE IN SCOTLAND, CALLED STORMHAVEN, IT SERVES AS THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS FOR OUR NEW ORGANIZATION, FREE-LANCE RESTORATIONS...

"...AND YET, WHEN BUSINESS IS DONE, IT OFFERS ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RECREATION.

"PERHAPS THE TENNIS COURT WILL PROVIDE SOME VARIETY FOR THIS PORTION OF MY REGIMEN..."

SURE YOU WANT THIS THING SET ON THE HIGHEST SPEED, SHANG? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A RACKET.

THEY ARE ONLY TENNIS BALLS, LEIKO.



BUT ONLY YOU, SHANG, COULD FIND SUCH A USE FOR THIS CONTRAPTION.

"THE WORKOUT HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. BESIDES, MY ARM STILL ACHES..."

EH? A MOVING VAN?

ONE OF THEM--
MANDY'S
ACCUMULATED
A LOT OF
EQUIPMENT.

FOR HER SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND? SHE'S MOVING
IT OUT OF THE CASTLE?

THAT'S RIGHT--YOU
WERE AWAY. SHE'S
DECIDED THAT SHAR-
ING EVEN A **LARGE**
BUILDING WITH US IS
TOO HAZARDOUS FOR
HER STUDENTS. MOST
HAVE ALREADY LEFT,
IN FACT.

HER UNCLE IS A MAN
OF MEANS, SHANG, AND
QUITE PROUD OF WHAT
SHE'S BEGUN-- HE'S
UNDERWRITING THE
RELOCATION TO LON-
DON. MELISSA IS
GOING WITH HER TO
HELP SET UP.

BUT
WHERE--?

COME ON--
MAYBE WE CAN
HELP WITH THE
OTHER VAN.

CAREFUL WITH
THAT-- IT'S
FRAGILE!

UH OH, JUST WHAT
I WAS AFRAID OF-- CLIVE
ALWAYS PICKS THE
WORST TIME TO DROP
HIS BOMB.

WHAT
BOMB?

IT'S FINAL, SHANG. HE'S
DECIDED TO... BREAK UP
WITH MELISSA.



NOW... NO NEED TO
CONVINCE YOU, MY
FINE STUFFED FRIENDS,
THAT MY PROWESS AS
A MARKSMAN IS LE-
GENDARY. INDEED,
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT-
TEN THE POINT...

BUT IF I'M GOING TO TRAIPISE
AROUND IN THIS BIZARRE OUT-
FIT AND CALL MYSELF **ZARAN**
THE WEAPONS MASTER--
THE SUPREME HUNTER--
THEN I'D BLOODY WELL BETTER CON-
VINCE MYSELF FROM TIME TO
TIME...

**GO GET A MAGNIFYING GLASS NOW!!
STARE AT THE MOST HORRIBLE
MONSTER OF ALL TIME!!**



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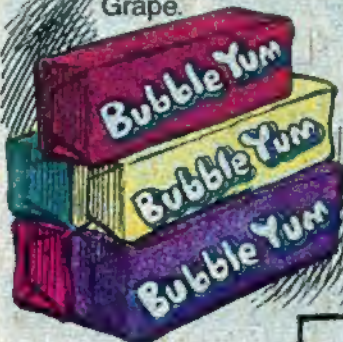


First, draw the path through the maze and then mail it in with your sweepstakes coupon.

Start

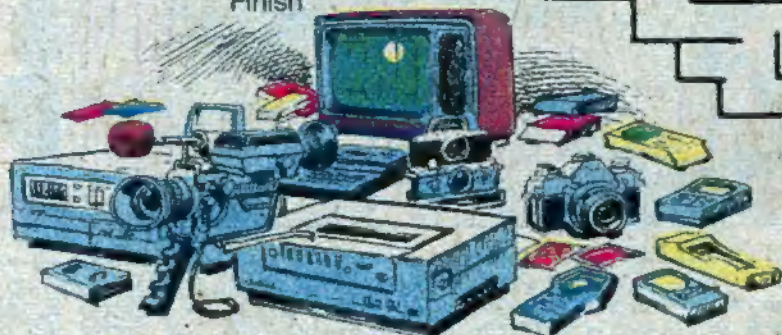
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Finish

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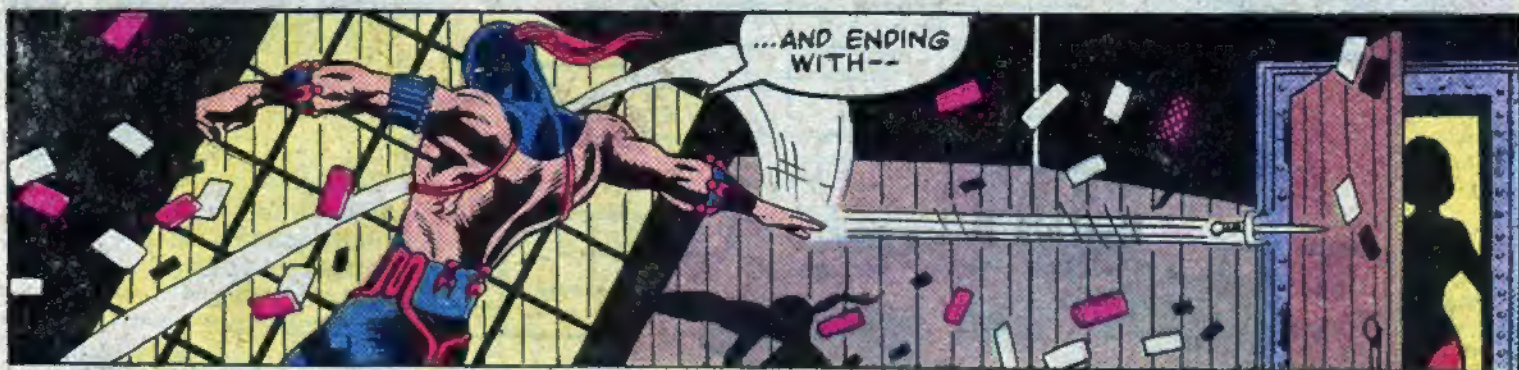
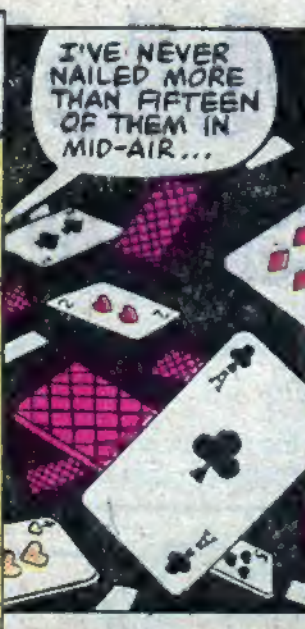
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8. For a complete list of winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Bubble Yum Family Fun, Games, Winners List, P.O. Box 568 WL, Lowell, IN 46356.



IT'S OVER, I NEEDED YOU WHEN I WAS RE-ORGANIZING THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE MI-6, ZARAN, BUT NOW YOU ARE MERELY AN EMBARRASSMENT.



WHAT?! BUT WE CAN STILL MEET LIKE *THIS*--AWAY FROM LONDON! I DON'T HAVE TO COME IN CONTACT WITH YOUR NEW ASSOCIATES--!



NO, ZARAN, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO CRUDE FOR ME, TOO BRUTAL. BESIDES, WITH THE DEFECTION OF THE DARK ANGEL I AM BUSY NOW WITH HER DEBRIEFING AT MI-6...



I HAVE NO TIME FOR CASUAL DALLIANCE WITH ANYONE, LEAST OF ALL YOU.

NO! I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE ME! I WON'T--



MIMOSA-DUST!

YOU... YOU'RE USING IT... ON ME--!



FAREWELL, ZARAN! FAREWELL, BOASTFUL HUNTSMAN!

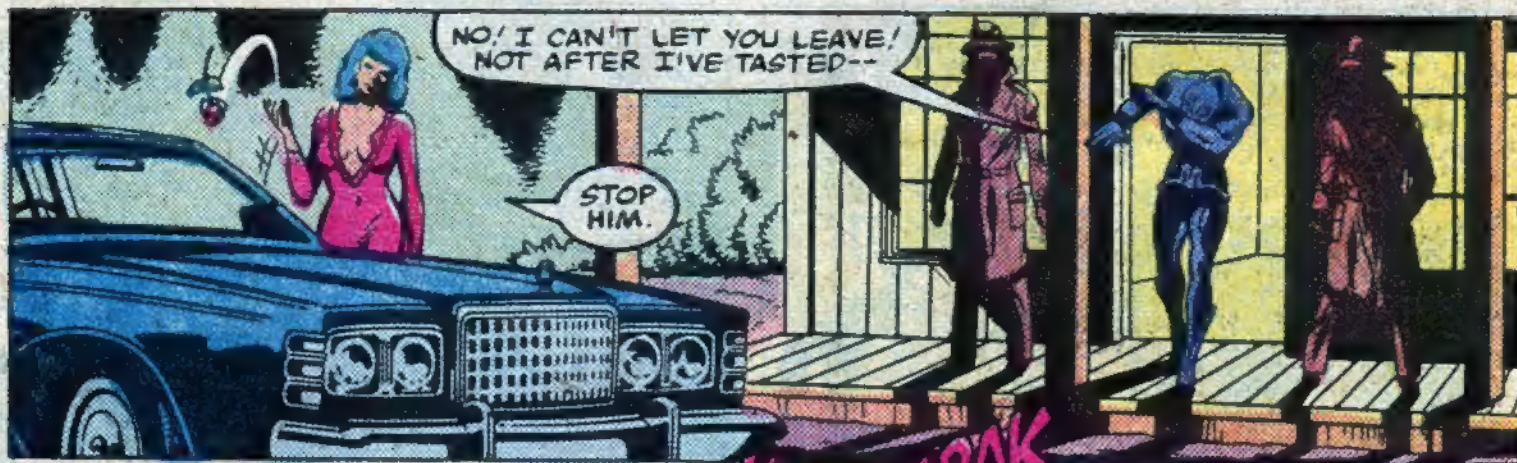
YOUR LOVE WAS NEVER MORE THAN A JOKE.

NO--! YOU CAN'T LEAVE, FAH LO SUEE-- NOT AFTER THE KINDS OF LOVE YOU'VE SHOWN ME-- I'LL NEVER FIND ANYONE ELSE TO COMPARE!

YOU'RE NOT A WOMAN -- YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL WITCH!



LIKE YOUR FATHER FU MANCHU, BUT YOU'RE EVEN MORE INSIDIOUS-- YOU USE LOVE INSTEAD OF HATE!



NO! I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE!
NOT AFTER I'VE TASTED--

STOP
HIM.



FASTER--THIS
"HUNTING LODGE" HAS
ALWAYS OFFENDED ME,
AND I HAVE A MEETING
AT WHITEHALL.

TWO CHEAP,
COMMON
THUGS...

...NEVER WOULD'VE
BEEN ABLE TO DO
IT TO ME IF NOT FOR
HER MIMOSA-DUST
... AND *SHE* NEVER
WOULD'VE DONE
IT IF NOT FOR
DARK ANGEL...

... DARK ANGEL...
THE DEATH OF OUR
LOVE... DESTROYED
EVERYTHING I
EVER DREAMED
OF... LUSTED
FOR...

DARK ANGEL...
MUST... DIE.

I UNDERSTAND,
CLIVE. TO TELL YOU
THE TRUTH, EVEN
AFTER HELPING
MANDY GET HER
NEW SCHOOL
RUNNING, I WASN'T
SURE I'D COME
BACK ON A
PERMANENT
BASIS.

REALLY, MELISSA? THEN PERHAPS
WE *BOTH* SENSED IT... BOTH KNEW
IT SHOULD END BEFORE IT...
BEFORE IT TURNED *BAD*...

IT WAS BAD ALL ALONG,
AND I KNEW IT--WE WERE
SIMPLY *WRONG* FOR EACH
OTHER, CLIVE, BUT I JUST
DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT
THAT WAY, DIDN'T WANT
TO LET THE TRUTH WIN.

INSTEAD, I TRIED TO
BECOME A PART OF YOUR
WORLD-- I TRULY DID, EVEN
THOUGH MY STUMBLING
EFFORTS MAY'VE MADE IT
HARD TO BELIEVE. I'M
JUST TOO MUCH A
CREATURE OF MY
HOME AND SCHOOL,
CLIVE...

REBELLION
DOESN'T COME EASY
FOR ME-- AND A
GENUINE LOVE OF
DANGER IS EVEN
HARDER... MUCH
HARDER.

I PREFER, GOD HELP
ME, THE SMELL OF BAKED
BREAD TO CORDITE, A WARM
HEARTH TO A RAINY PHONE-
BOX STAKEOUT, THE PICKET-
FENCED COTTAGE, THE
DOG, THE KIDS-- ALL
OF THAT.

THAT'S MY WORLD,
CLIVE... AND MAYBE SOME-
DAY, WHEN YOUR LEGS
START TO GO... AND THE
BREATHING COMES HAR-
DER... MAYBE YOU'LL
FIND A NEED FOR THOSE
THINGS TOO... AND
MAYBE I'LL STILL
BE AROUND.

I...

BUT DON'T
HOLD YOUR
LOUSY SKIRT-
CHASING
TANTRIC-
LOVING
BREATH!

SURE YOU WON'T
RECONSIDER, MELISSA,
AND STAY FOR TOMOR-
ROW'S HUNT?

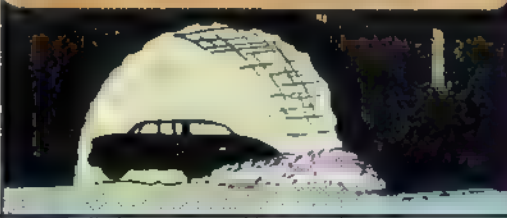
YEAH-- WHAT GOOD IS LEAVING
WITHOUT A FAREWELL FOX?

THANK YOU,
SIR DENIS, BLACK
JACK... BUT I
THINK NOT.

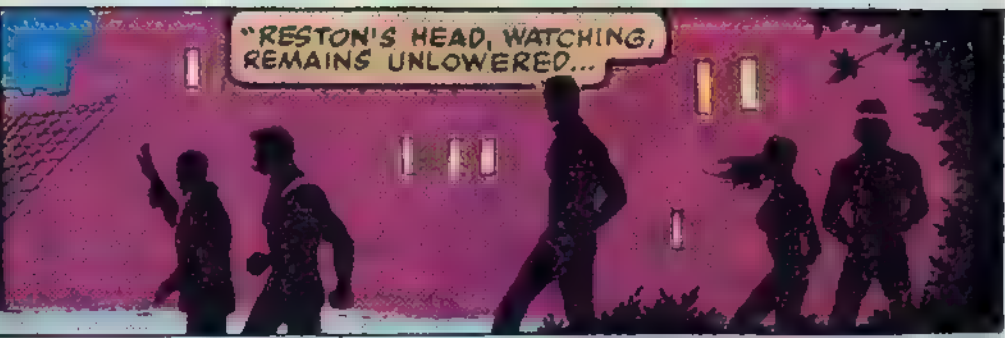
MANDY AND I HAD
BEST BE IN LONDON TO
MEET THE MOVERS.

BESIDES, I
HARDLY FEEL A
... DESIRE... TO
STAY HERE ANY
LONGER.

"AND THE DARK SILHOUETTE OF MELISSA GREVILLE'S HEAD, SEEN THROUGH THE REAR WINDSHIELD, ABRUPTLY DESCENDS.



"RESTON'S HEAD, WATCHING, REMAINS UNLOWERED...



"... BUT HIS ATTITUDE, AT LEAST, HAS KNOWN GREATER HEIGHTS.



"INDEED, HE IS GLUMLY WISTFUL, AND PERHAPS PAINED, TRANSFIXED BY BOTH MEMORIES AND CONSCIENCE...

"... UNTIL DARK ANGEL STEPS FROM THE BREEZY SHADOWS OF THE GARDEN.



ANGEL--!

"THUS THE FINAL LINK WITH MELISSA GREVILLE IS TORN...

"... EVEN AS A NEW BOND IS FORGED.

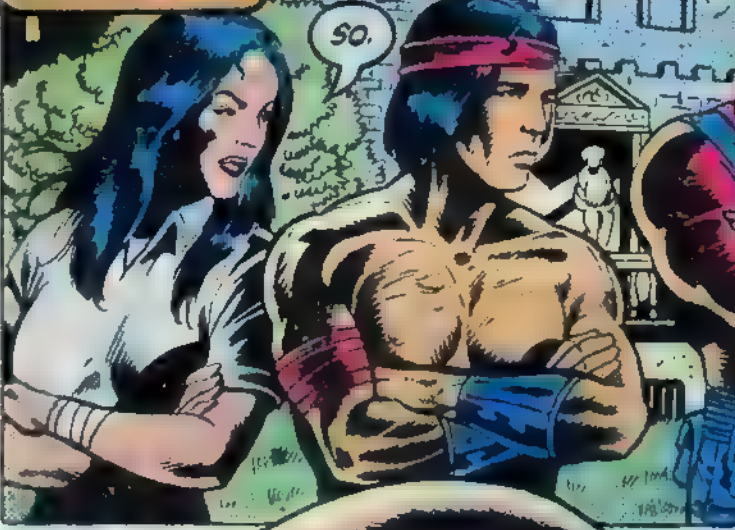


SOMETHING TO EAT?

YES, CLIVE-- FINE.

"AND AS HE WALKS OFF WITH HER...

"... ALL THOUGHTS OF HIS FORMER UNION, HAVE, NO DOUBT, BEEN CARRIED OFF BY THE SOFTLY SCENTED WIND.



SO.

SO WE'LL ALL HATE HIS BLOODY HIDE FOR THREE WEEKS AND THEN IT'LL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL. THINGS CHANGE, WU-- ESPECIALLY THE HEART.

DO THEY, BLACK JACK? DO THEY REALLY?

SOMETIMES, PERHAPS FOR SOME HEARTS...

... BUT NOT ALWAYS... NOT FOR EVERYONE...

"WITH A DEEP SHIVER I REALIZE HE IS SPEAKING OF A TIME LONG AGO, SPENT IN THE COMPANY OF MY ETERNALLY YOUTHFUL SISTER PAH LO SUEE. SHE IS STILL THE SAME ... HE, NOW AN OLD MAN.

"AND SURELY HIS HEART HAS CHANGED, FOR SHE HAS LONG SINCE BROKEN IT...

...EVEN AS SHE HAS BROKEN COUNTLESS OTHER HEARTS IN HER LONG CAREER OF BEAUTY AND MYSTERY.

YES, I THOUGHT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD FIND SUCH INFORMATION VALUABLE. WHERE IS SHE? NOT SO FAST, COMRADE--THE KILL IS MINE.

ALL I ASK IS YOUR FIVE BEST MEN-- BUT NO GUNS --I REFUSE TO BE CRUDE AND BRUTAL. THE KILLING OF DARK ANGEL MUST BE CLEAN, A WORK OF ART.

AH, I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE, MIA...

"MIA"... I STILL FIND MY NEW BRITISH NAME SO... STRANGE.

AGREED? EXCELLENT. HAVE THEM MEET ME IN THE RED FOX PUB IN CUPAR, FIFE--SCOTLAND.

THEN I'LL CALL YOU "ANGEL."

SHE IS GONE FOR GOOD, CLIVE?

YES. I... TOLD HER.

DO YOU NOT... FIND IT SOMEWHAT SAD?

YES. YES I DO.

SHOULD WE NOT FEEL GUILT, THEN?

NO. WE'RE IN LOVE, ANGEL.

LOVERS CAN'T SIN.

BUT SHOULD WE NOT... GET SOME REST... FOR THE MORNING'S HUNT?

NO... WE'RE IN LOVE. WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

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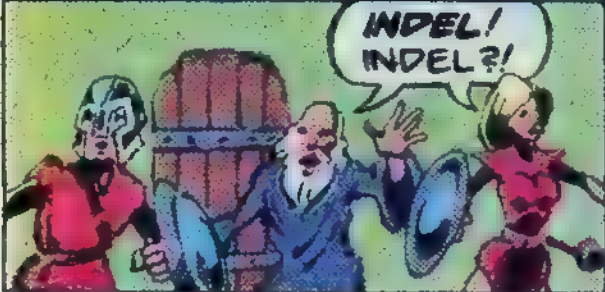
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INDEL?!



GET THEM!

TAKE THEIR TREASURE!

SUDDENLY A BAND OF EVIL GOBLINS JUMPS FROM THE SHADOWS!!



STAND BACK!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!



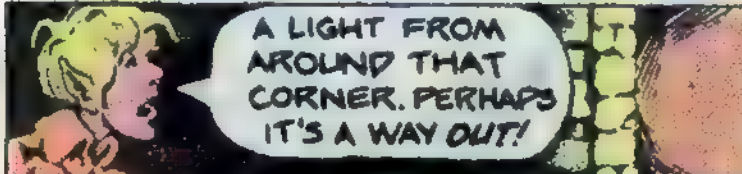
A SIMPLE SLEEP SPELL STOPPED THEM!

COME--! WE MUST FIND INDEL!

MEANWHILE--



OH, MY HEAD!



A LIGHT FROM AROUND THAT CORNER. PERHAPS IT'S A WAY OUT!



GREETINGS, MORTAL WORM!

OH, MY! I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE!

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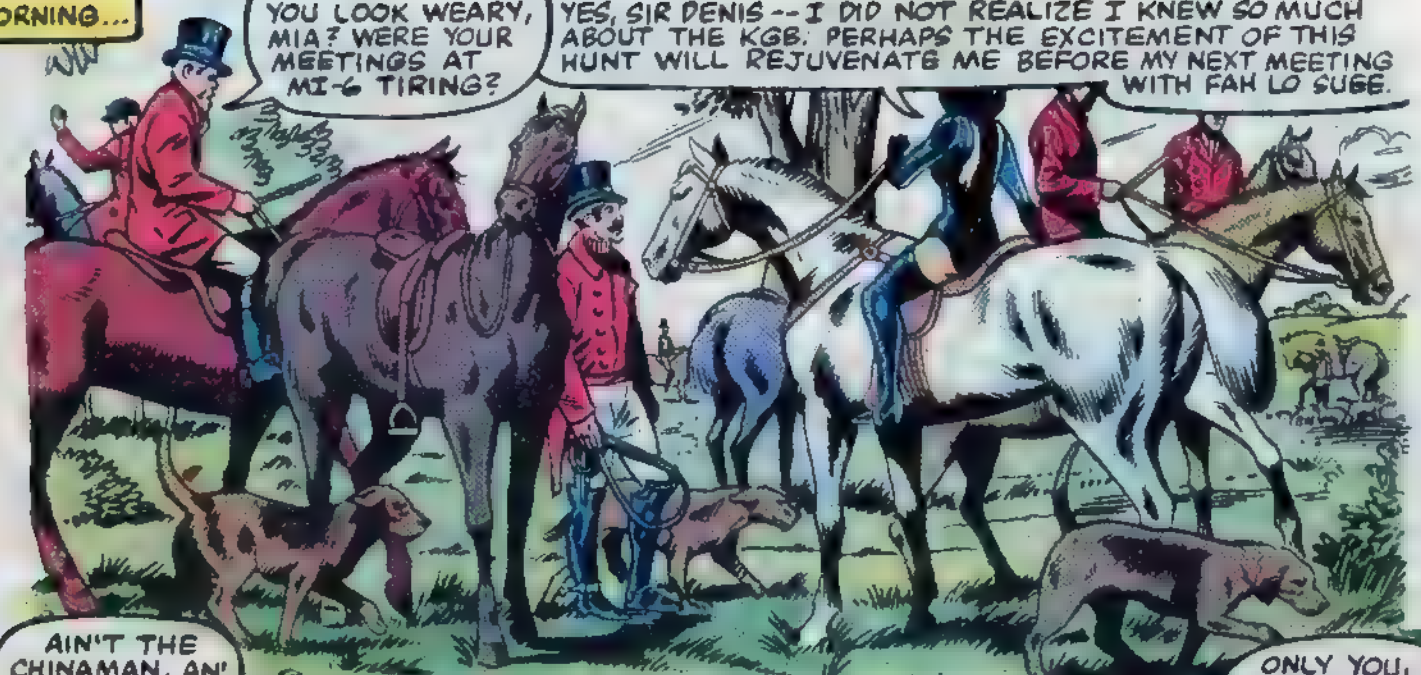
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"MORNING..."

YOU LOOK WEARY, MIA? WERE YOUR MEETINGS AT MI-6 TIRING?

YES, SIR DENIS -- I DID NOT REALIZE I KNEW SO MUCH ABOUT THE KGB. PERHAPS THE EXCITEMENT OF THIS HUNT WILL REJUVENATE ME BEFORE MY NEXT MEETING WITH FAH LO SUGE.



AIN'T THE CHINAMAN, AN' WU COMIN', SIR DENIS?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHANG-CHI IS, BLACK JACK...



I DOUBT THIS KIND OF SPORT APPEALS TO HIS FANCY, BUT LEIKO DID GO OFF TO FIND HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE, SHANG?



SPEAK SOFTLY, LEIKO.

NEW LIFE.



THE MOTHER HAS FINALLY ACCEPTED ME.

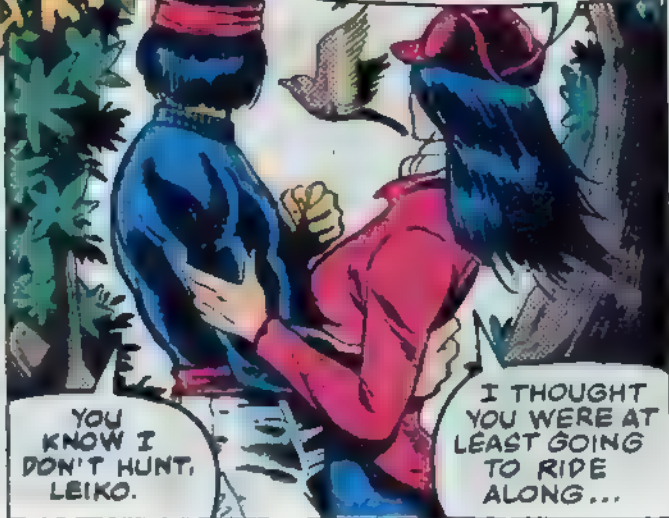


ONLY YOU, SHANG... ONLY YOU.



TARAA
TARAA

THE TRUMPET'S STARTLED YOUR MOTHER THRUSH, SHANG -- BUT THE HUNT'S STARTING ANYWAY.



YOU KNOW I DON'T HUNT, LEIKO.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST GOING TO RIDE ALONG...

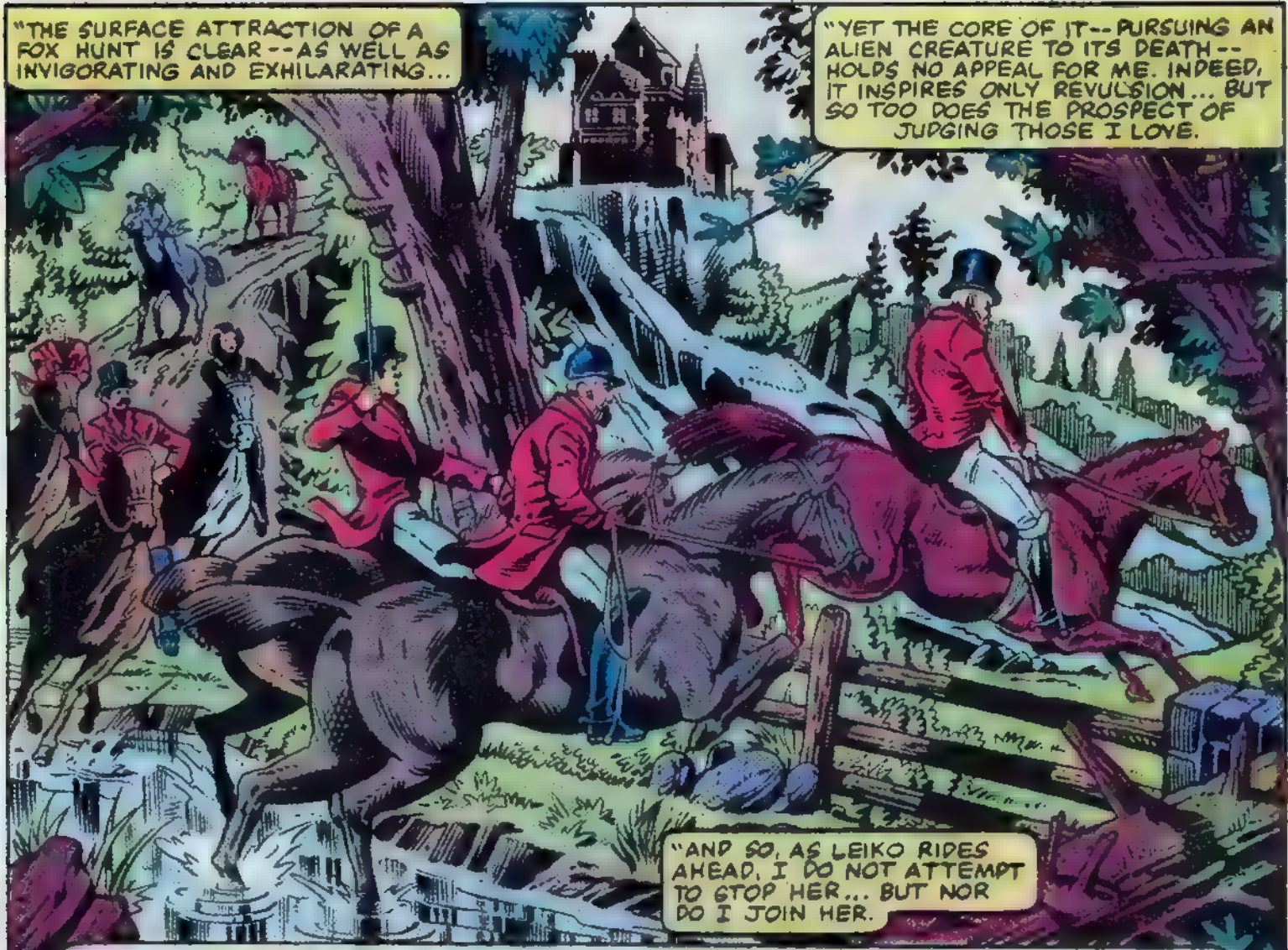
AT A DISTANCE.



THEN LET'S GO -- THEY'VE ALREADY RELEASED THE FOX AND BEGUN THE HUNT!

"THE SURFACE ATTRACTION OF A FOX HUNT IS CLEAR--AS WELL AS INVIGORATING AND EXHILARATING...

"YET THE CORE OF IT--PURSUING AN ALIEN CREATURE TO ITS DEATH--HOLDS NO APPEAL FOR ME. INDEED, IT INSPIRES ONLY REVULSION... BUT SO TOO DOES THE PROSPECT OF JUDGING THOSE I LOVE.



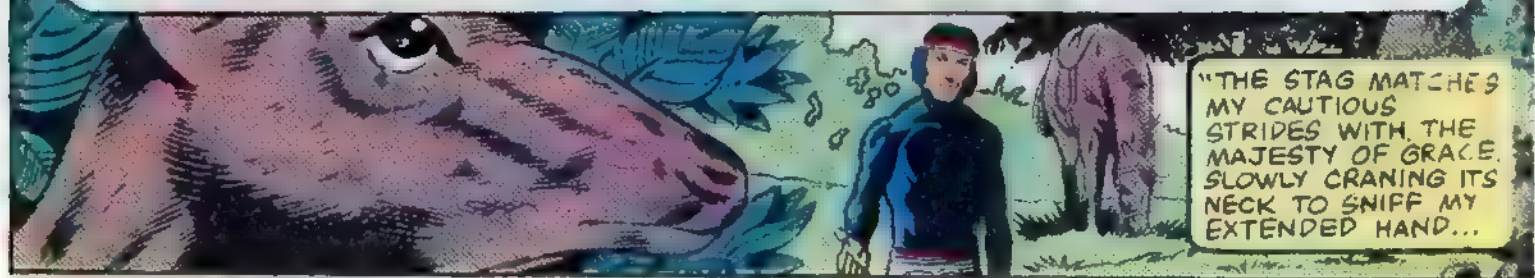
"AND SO, AS LEIKO RIDES AHEAD, I DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STOP HER... BUT NOR DO I JOIN HER.

"AND WHEN THE SOFT WEIGHT OF PASSIVE EYES IS FELT ALONG THE RIDGE OF MY CHEEK...

"...I RETURN THE PASSIVE GAZE, SEEKING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A MORE GENTLE ENCOUNTER WITH AN ALIEN CREATURE.



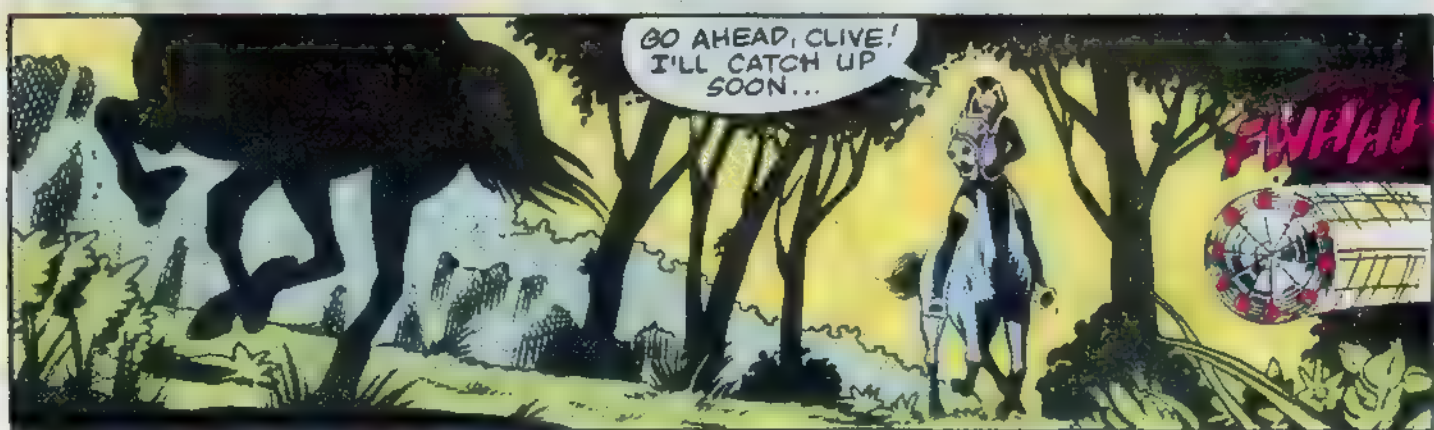
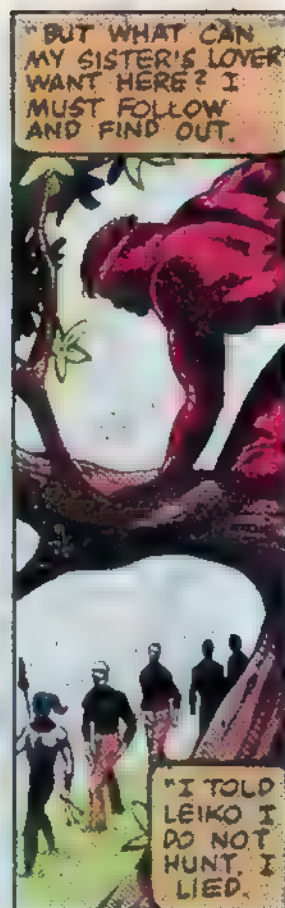
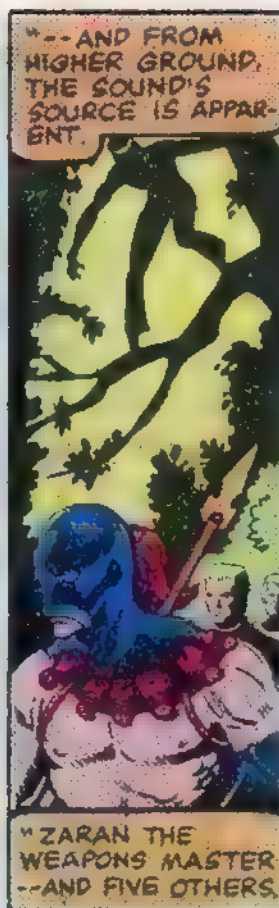
"NO PURSUIT OR FLIGHT HERE. INSTEAD, FACING EACH OTHER, WE STEP FORWARD SLOWLY... JOINING IN TRUST AT A MID-POINT OF COMMON GROUND.



"THE STAG MATCHES MY CAUTIOUS STRIDES WITH THE MAJESTY OF GRACE. SLOWLY CRANING ITS NECK TO SNIFF MY EXTENDED HAND...



"EH--?"





NOW, MY RUSSIAN FRIENDS, YOU SHALL WITNESS A **CLEAN KILL**... A TRUE WORK OF ART, PAINTED IN **BLOOD**...



HAAA!

BLURP

TWUNG



WH-WHAT--?



CLIVE! WE NEED **HELP!**

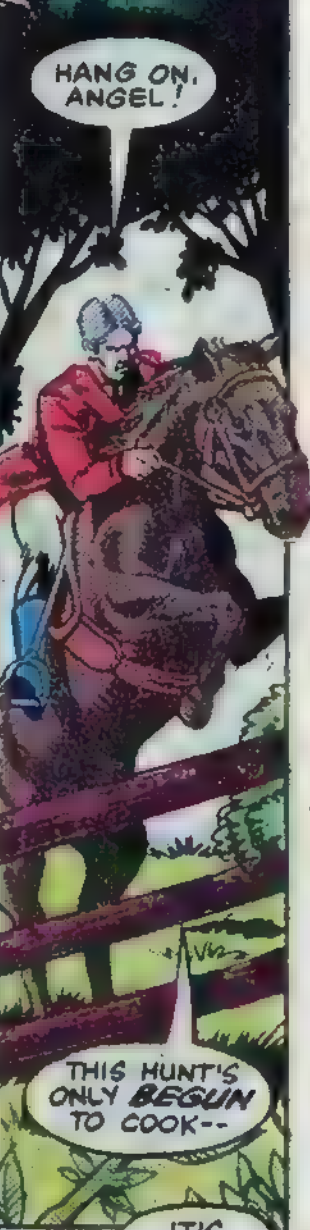
SHWAK

SWAP



ANGEL--?

BACK THERE, RESTON! SHE'S WITH THE CHINA-MAN--AND THEY'VE BEEN **ATTACKED!**



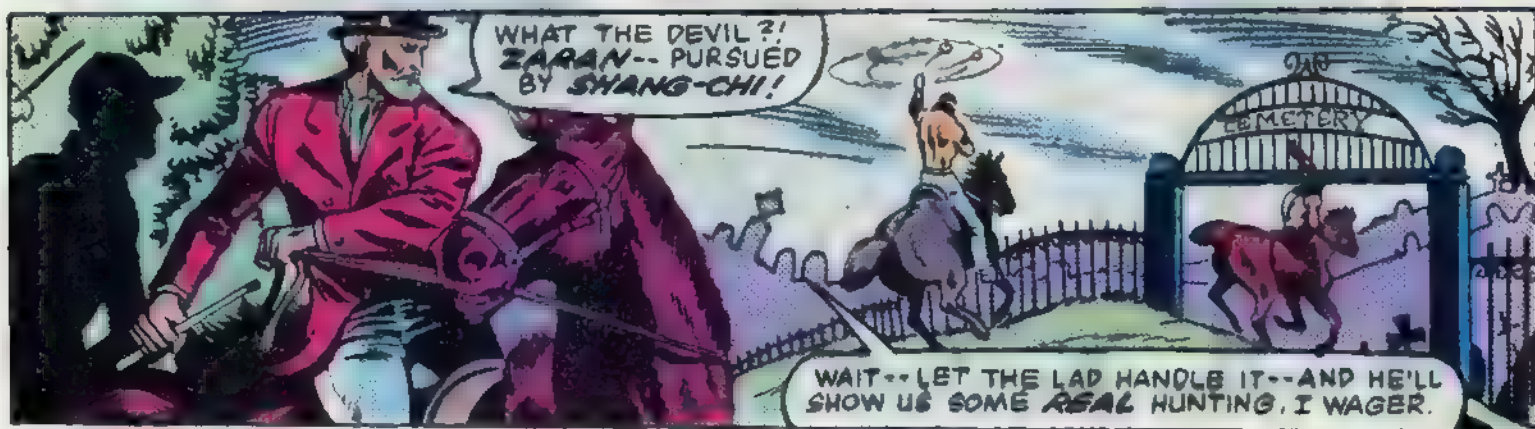
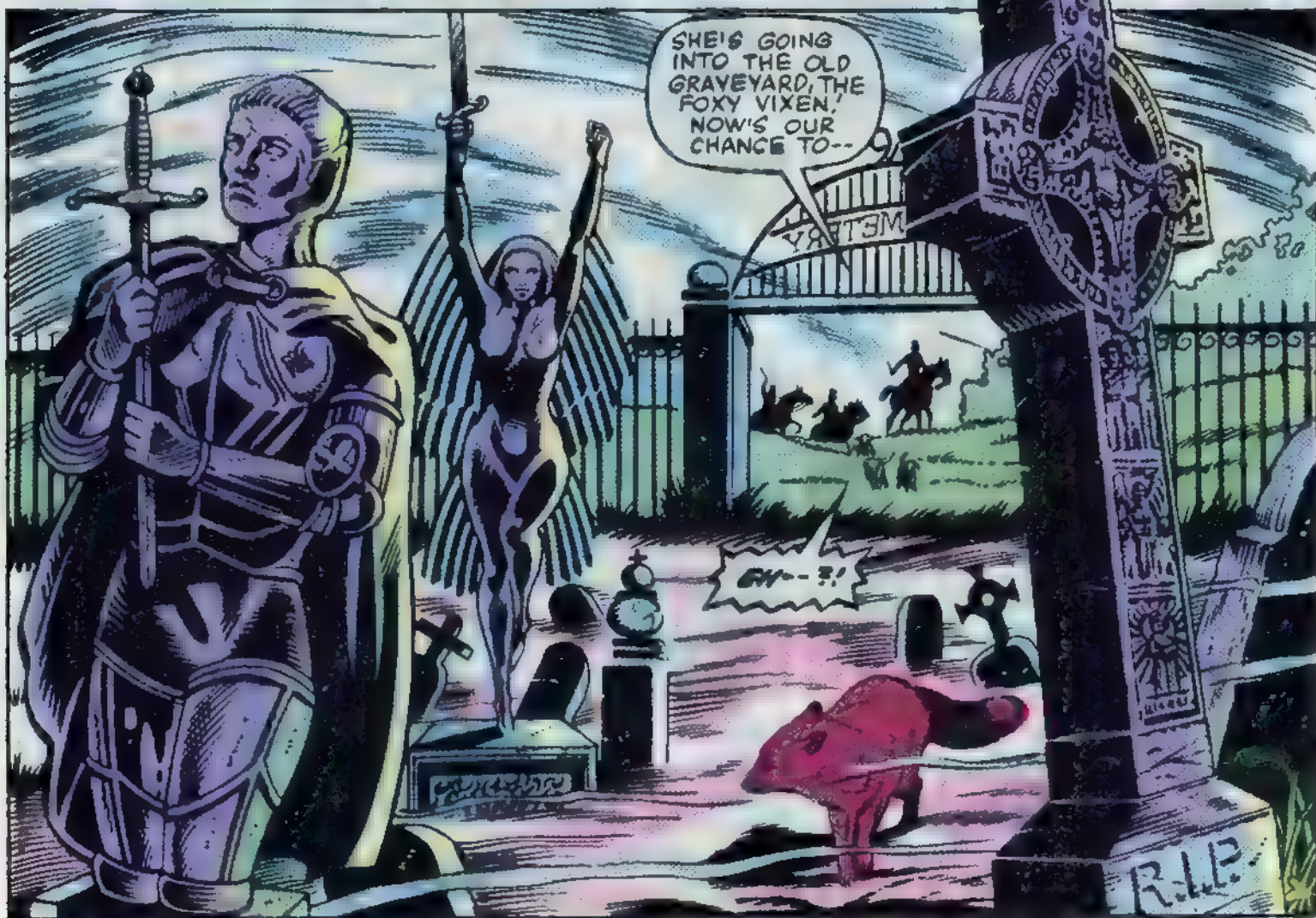
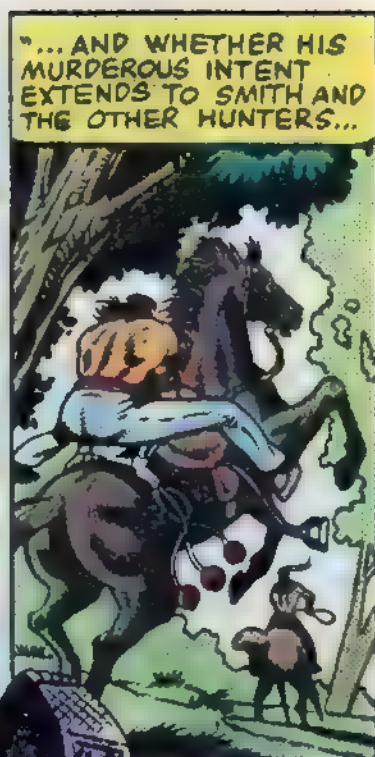
HANG ON, ANGEL!

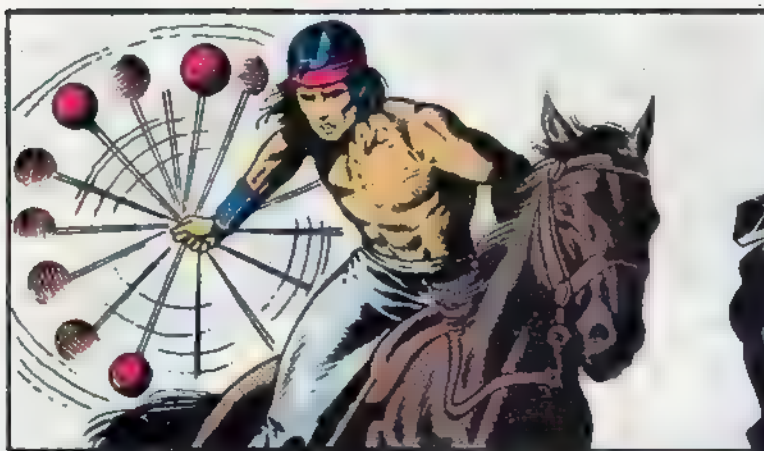
THIS HUNT'S ONLY **BEGUN** TO COOK--



--AND DON'T HOG ALL THE GAME TO YOURSELF!

IT'S **ZARAN** AGAIN--FILTHY **BUGGER!**

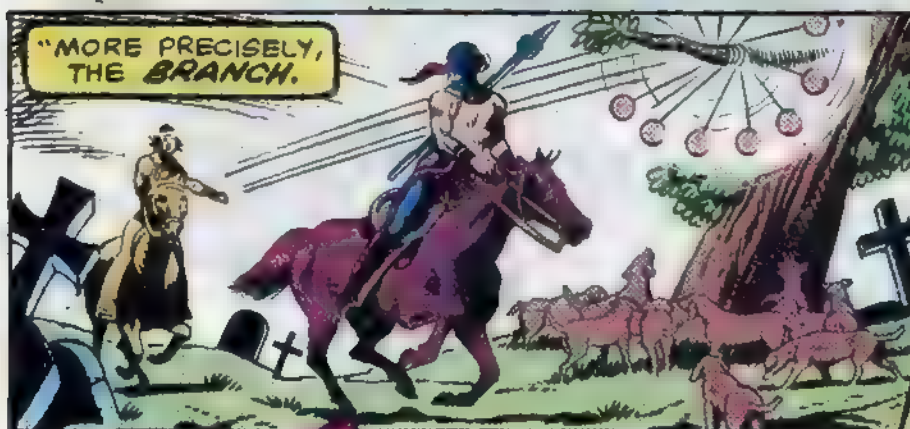
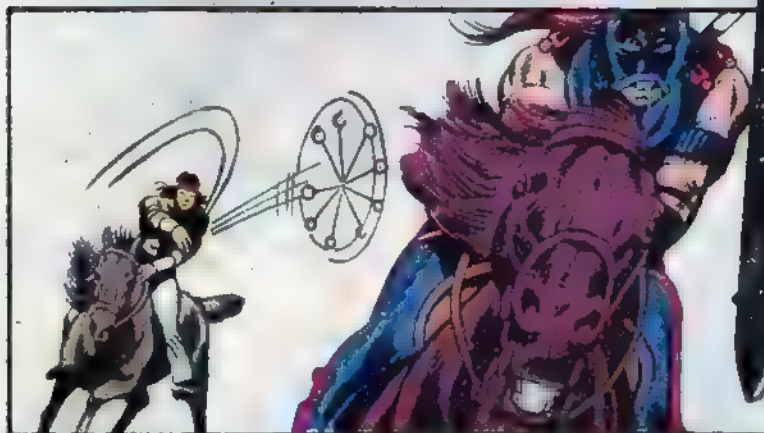




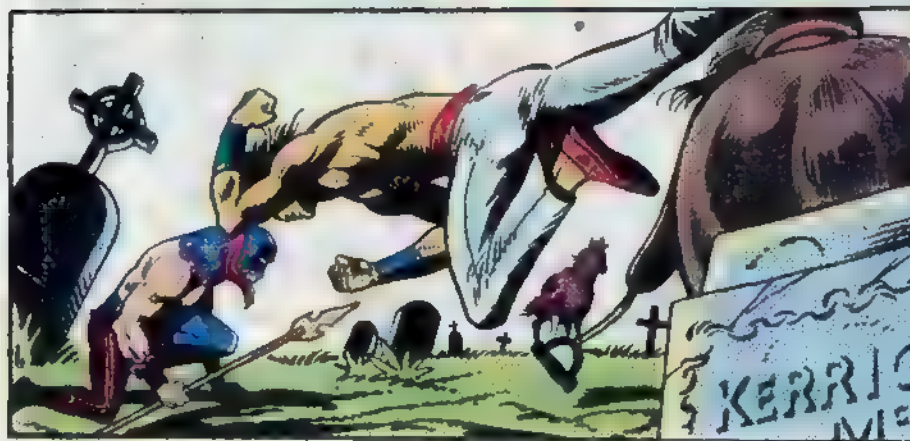
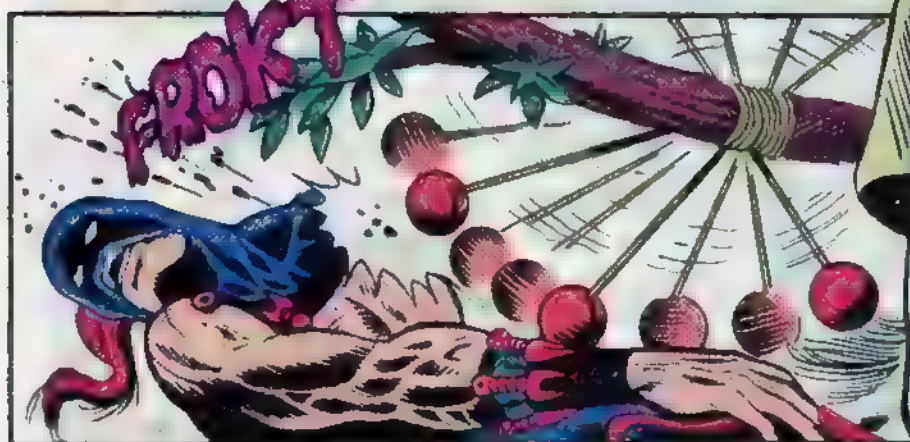
"THE NOISE OF THE HOUNDS
NOW IS GHRILL.

"THEY HAVE TREED
THE FOX IN THE
CENTER OF THE
GRAVEYARD...

"... AND THE TREE
ITSELF GIVES ME
AN IDEA...



"MORE PRECISELY,
THE **BRANCH.**



KERRIGAN
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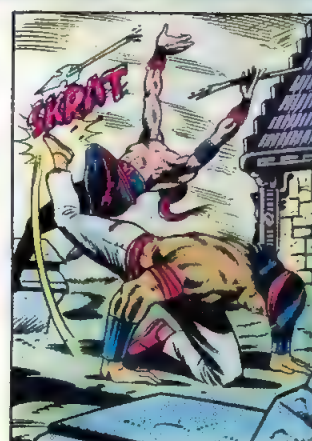
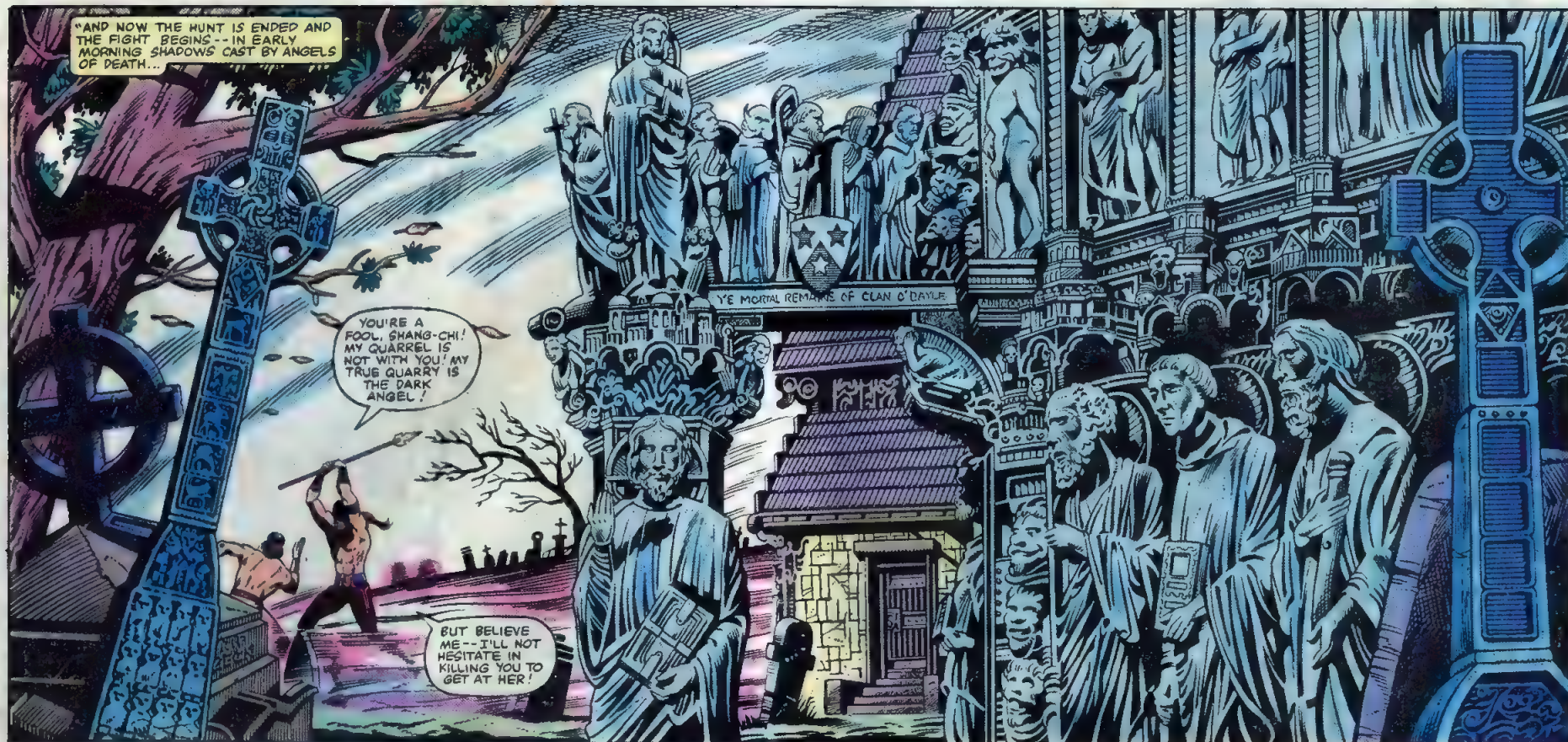


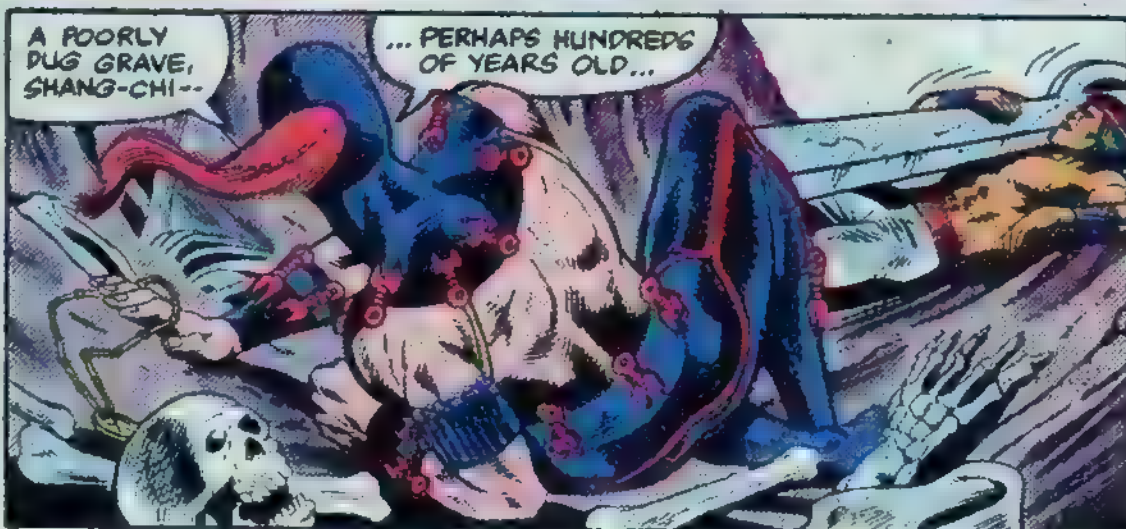
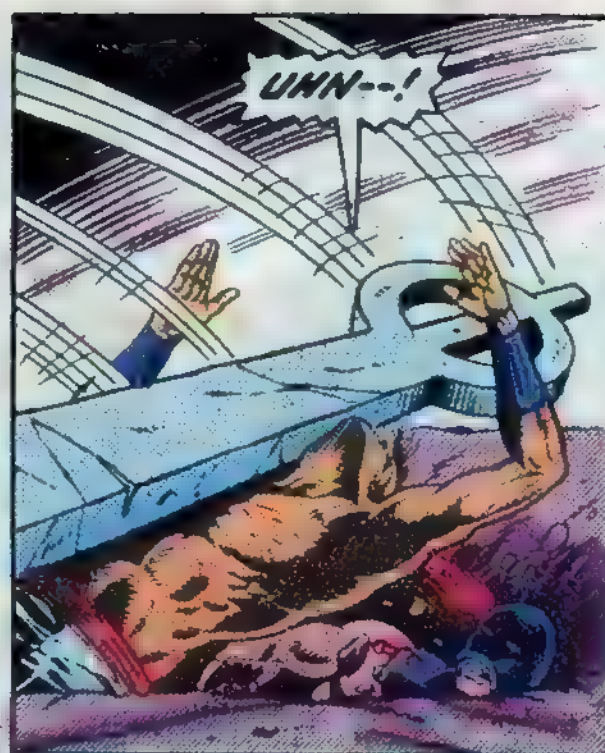
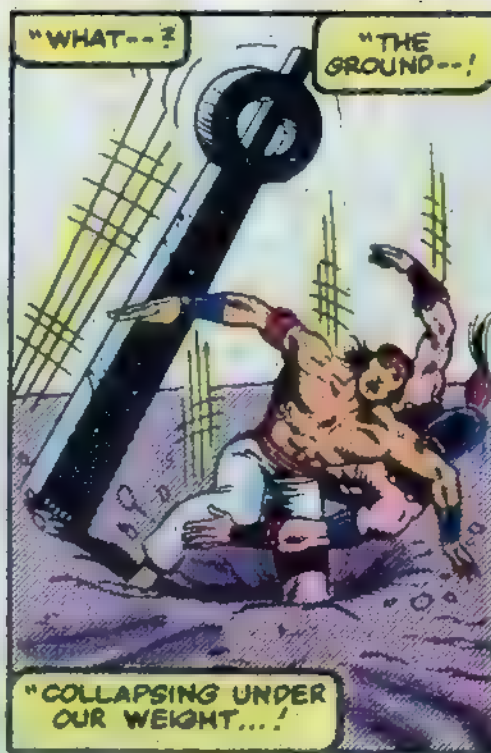
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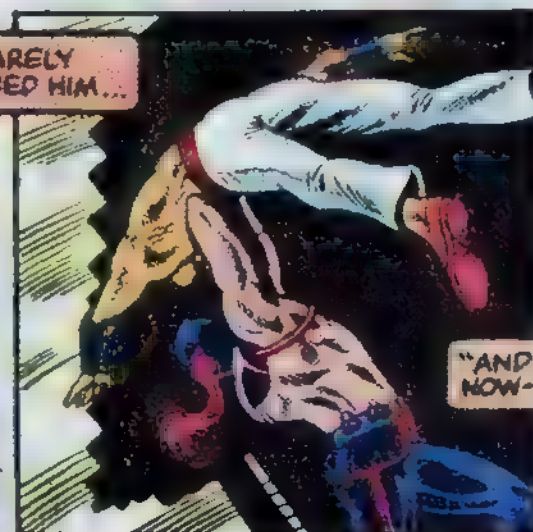
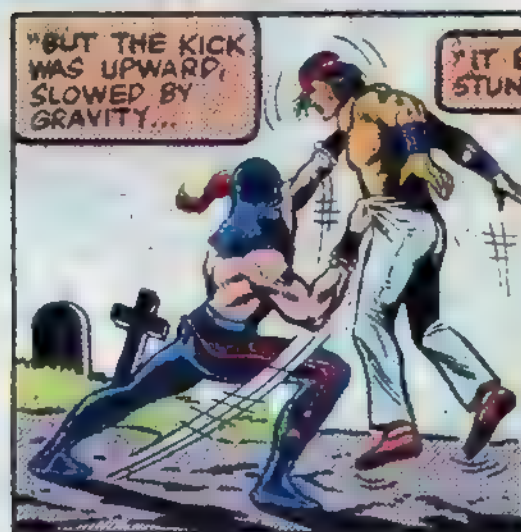
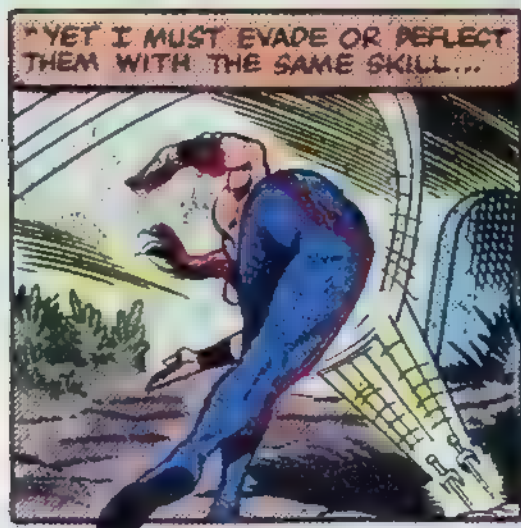
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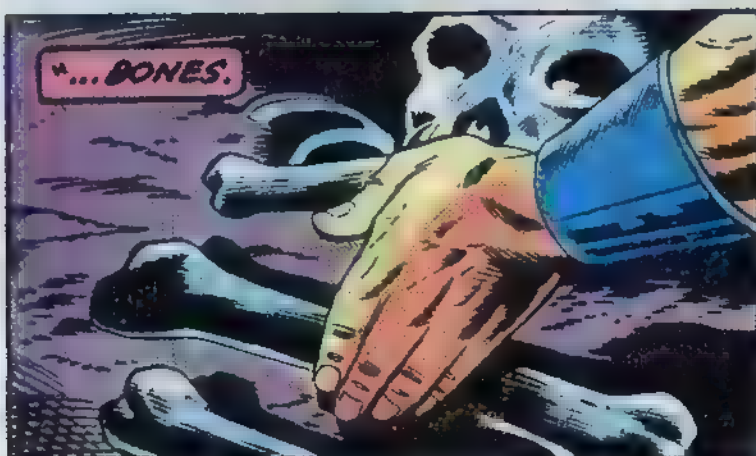




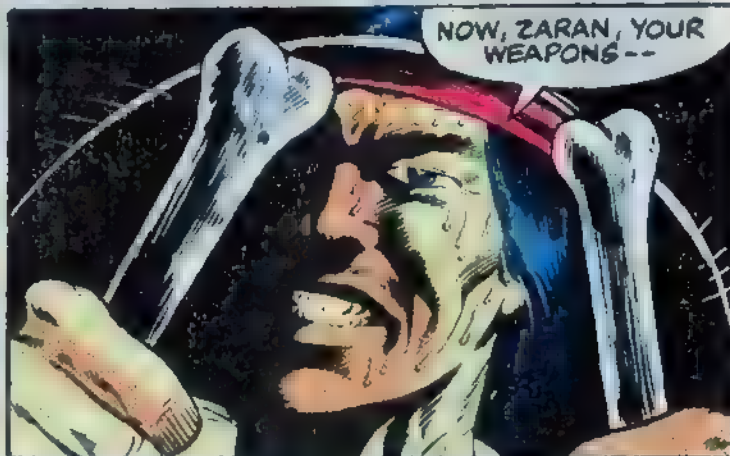




---AN ANGEL OF DEATH GIVES WAY TO---



"...BONES."



NOW, ZARAN, YOUR WEAPONS--



--AGAINST MINE!

THAT SUITS ME FINE, SHANG-CHI... A PRIMITIVE CLUB-WIELDING SAVAGE--



--AGAINST AN ADVANCED TOOL-MAKING WARRIOR.

YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE.



YET HIS BONE BREAKS.

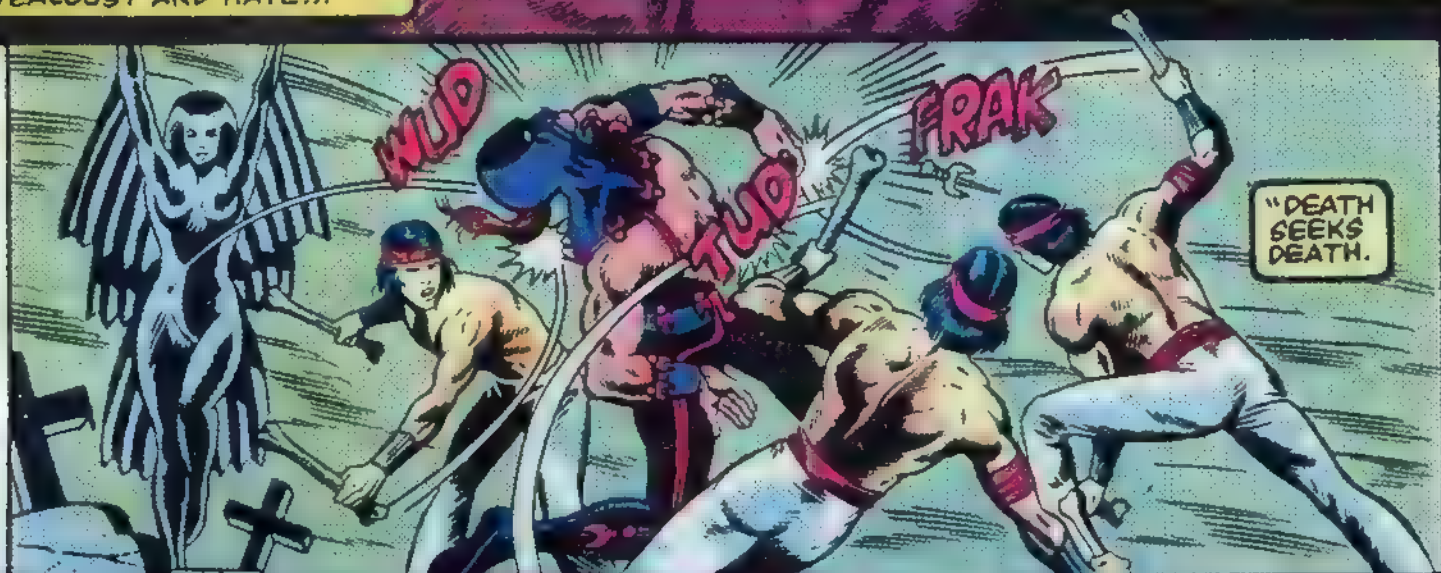
AGH! MY ARM--!



"MINE DO NOT."

"MY SISTER FAH LO SUEE
HAS CHANGED YET ANOTHER
HEART, POISONING IT WITH
JEALOUSY AND HATE..."

"...AND NOW THE ARTIFACTS
OF DEATH DO BATTLE AGAINST
AN ARCHITECT OF DEATH."

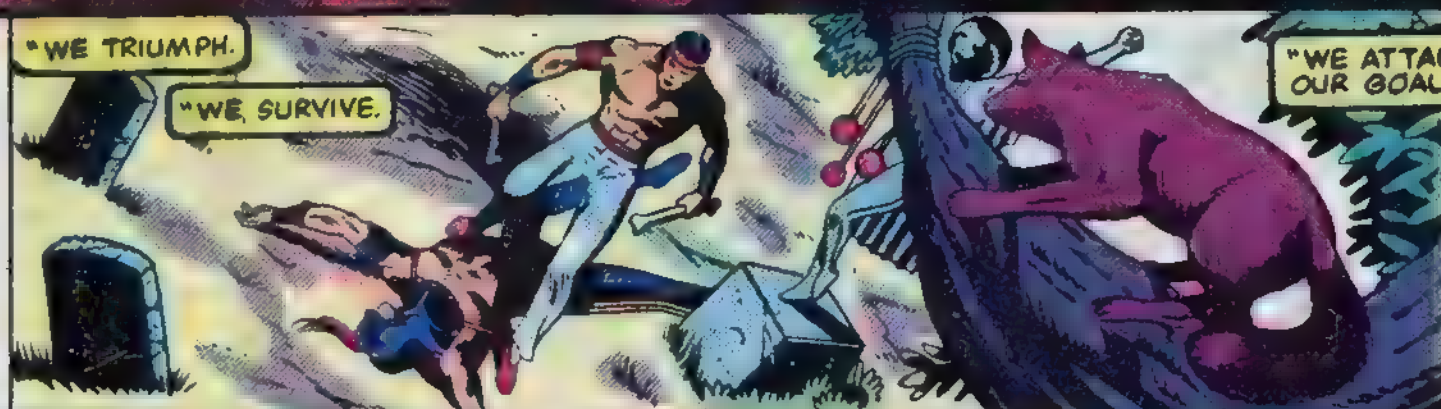


"BUT THE TWO OF US
CLOSEST TO THE HEART
OF THE MATTER SEEK
NOTHING BUT LIFE..."

"WE TRIUMPH."

"WE SURVIVE."

"WE ATTAIN
OUR GOAL."



"AND BECAUSE
OF IT..."

"...ANOTHER WILL
ALSO LIVE."



"NOW, AS
THE HOUNDS
CONTINUE
BARKING UP
THE TREE--"



"--IT BECOMES
THE WRONG TREE."



"THE DARK
ANGEL OF
DEATH WILL
LIVE."

"BUT SHE HAS
BEEN CHEATED."



BULLPEN BULLETINS

TIME FOR A NEW IMAGE

All my life I've tried to be a nice guy — you know, being kind to small children, donating spare change to unemployed Vikings, and feeding stray animals — but what has it gotten me? Maligned, that's what! Character-assassinated, that's what! Every time I go to a convention these days some insatiable reader is bound to walk up to me and say in a low growl, "How dare you take (name of artist) off of (pick a book), you low-down, rotten, evil scoundrel!" Or, better still, "I hear you were the one who decreed that in X-MEN #137 Phoenix should die — Murderer!"

I suppose I could continue to explain that artists generally take themselves off of books usually, because they can't keep up with all their assignments. (Why they accept twice as many assignments as Doc Ock could handle in the first place is a mystery!) And I could continue to calmly elucidate the circumstances regarding the demise of Phoenix, but — I've been pushed too far! I've had it! No more Mr. Nice Guy!

"HOWDY POG'NERS," HE HISSED THROUGH AN EVIL SNEER...

Tough... cruel... ruthless... yeah, that's the new me. I'll let nothing stand in my way and no one defy me as I continue my relentless march toward absolute power! I'll become a Super-Villain, like Doctor Doom... or a Master of Evil, like Fu Manchu... or, I know! A Corrupt Oil Baron!



"J.S."

Nice hat, huh? I actually bought it to spare my face from cooking in the blazing San Diego sun while I was there attending the San Diego Con this July, but it suits my new image just fine.

All right, enough of this... let's get down to (evil) business...

DO UNTO OTHERS... AND GLOAT!

I've been hearing reports that DAREDEVIL is finally being "discovered" by comics fans across the country. People are beginning to realize what I've known for years — that Frank Miller, who writes and draws the book, is good... real good... too good. Hmm. If this upstart punk Miller gets too popular he may become difficult to control. Maybe I should do something about this Miller guy... maybe get rid of him? No, that's too quick... too painless. Ah! I know! If certain "unimpeachable sources" were to "reveal" that Miller drowns kittens for fun every Friday evening... let's see... a few well-placed bribes ought to accomplish that!

NOW, HOW CAN I MAKE A BUCK OUTTA THIS...?

You may have noticed that last month the price of our regular comics went from 50¢ to 60¢. I'd like to be able to tell you that all that extra dough is going in-

to my pockets — but unfortunately, there really isn't any "extra dough." The increase in price just covers our increase in costs. Too bad. Now that I've become truly evil, I'd really enjoy skimming off some cash and funneling it into my new, secret Swiss Bank Account. I should apologize to you, our loyal reader, but being evil means you never have to say you're sorry.

Maybe I can arrange to have the price raised to 75¢!

GRAFT, FOR FUN AND PROFIT!

Hmm... all I have to do is set up a little system whereby artists and writers have to slip me a little cash under the table in order to get choice assignments and I could turn a tidy profit... but, on second thought, Tom DeFalco, Superstar Editor of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TEAM-UP, WHAT IF...? and GHOST RIDER is apparently already doing that. I noticed that he has a jar on his desk labelled "Kick-backs" (it couldn't be just for laughs, could it? Nah!). Being that he's one of my most trusted lackeys, I'll leave that business to him. Of course I will muscle in and grab a piece of his take — a big piece — leaving him, say, a generous ten percent. After all, initiative like Tom's should be rewarded!

And maybe I'll send a list of my sizes out to all the staff and freelancers just before Christmas. That way I'll get some nice gifts from them... or else!

WHEW!

This column is so evil even I, J.S., can't stand it. I think we need a change of pace... a little interlude of niceness. I wonder who I can get who's really sweet and nice to take over for a paragraph? Ah! I know!

LOUISE JONES'S CHEERFULLY NICE NEWS!

Last Thursday, when a couple of kids from Long Island visited Marvel's office, it was real easy to tell which comics has won their hearts — they started quoting long passages of Chris Claremont's X-MEN dialogue. Just wait'll they read #153!

Danny Fingeroth's beloved tangerine plant "Robert," actually threw while Danny was on vacation in California, due to the merciful ministrations of EPIC's Jo Duffy. Unfortunately, Danny's DAZZLER dialogue is later than ever... but it's now got a lot of that mellow California pizzazz.

Gil Kane actually got in pencils for CONAN #130 on time. Must have been inspired by the incredible premiere plot of Bruce Jones. CONAN's new regular scripter.

Production paragon, Ron Zeme and wife, Linda, are expecting their first child some time this week. Congratulations, Ron!

Chris Claremont, Walt Simonson and Terry Austin are hard at work on the X-MEN/TEEN TITANS Marvel/DC teamup. It's gonna be a winner.

And say, Jim, I really like that hat!

Louise
LOUISE

ME AGAIN...

Gee, Louise is such a wonderful lady. So talented, so professional, and such a pleasant, charming, sweetheart of a human being. Reading her paragraph makes me feel really guilty about being evil.

Maybe I should call the whole thing off and just go back to being my regular, old, nice-guy self. Yeah... it's only right.

Beelzeb, Corrupt Cattle Barons, tend to get shot.

Hang in there,

Jim Shooter

JIM SHOOTER

P.S. Just to prove that I'm an okay guy, next month, to make nice, I'll print a picture of Louise wearing The Hat!



THE HYPE BOX

Here're a few things we're real excited about this month:

SHE-HULK #25 — The She-Hulk faces the ultimate villain in this collector's item last issue. It's double-sized and double dynamite!

FANTASTIC FOUR #239 — Hey! Have you been watching John Byrne's progress as writer, penciler, and inker on the World's Greatest you-know-what? If you haven't, you should've been! This month, John takes the FF to a town that's scared to death — and introduces the guaranteed most unexpected guest-star of all!

Special note: This month, MICRONAUTS joins KA-ZAR and MOON KNIGHT in going to 32 pages of story and features with no ads! Available through subscription and your local comics shop only. Worth the search.



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

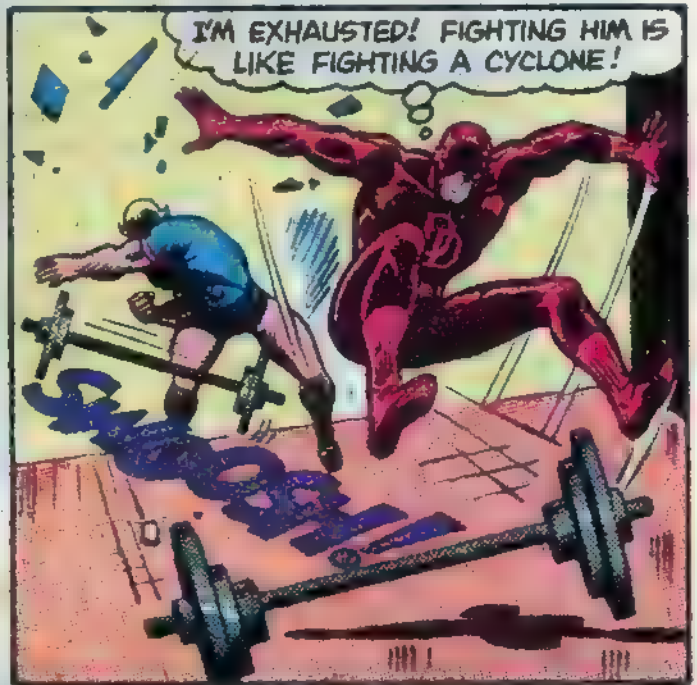
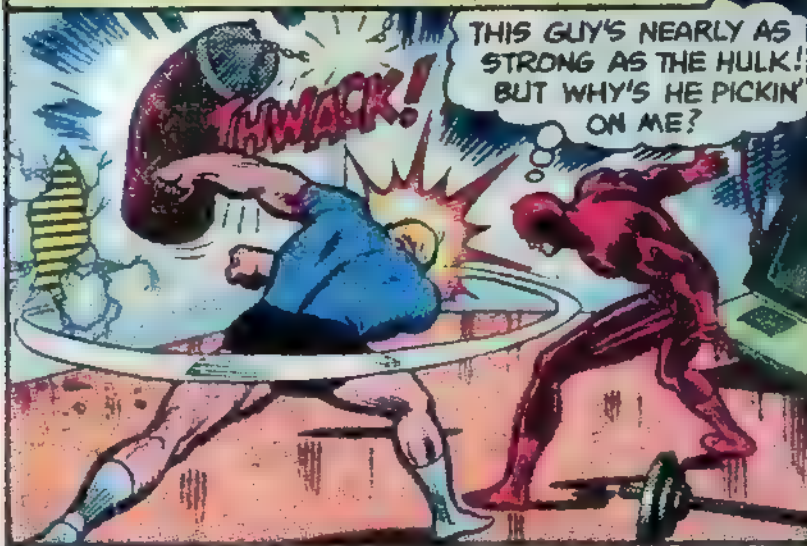
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #84 - Starring the Thing and Alpha Flight
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #42
- ☐ STAR TREK #18
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #179
- ☐ DAZZLER #12
- ☐ KA-ZAR #11
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #4
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #225
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #38
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #268
- ☐ THOR #316
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #18
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #65
- ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #25
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #81
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #268
- ☐ AVENGERS #216
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #131
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #135 - Starring Spider-Man!
- ☐ X-MEN #154
- ☐ ROM #27
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #75
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #239
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #114 - Starring Spider-Man and the Falcon!
- ☐ IRON MAN #155
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63
- ☐ DEFENDERS #104
- ☐ STAR WARS #56
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #106
- ☐ WHAT IF #31

MARVEL MAGAZINES

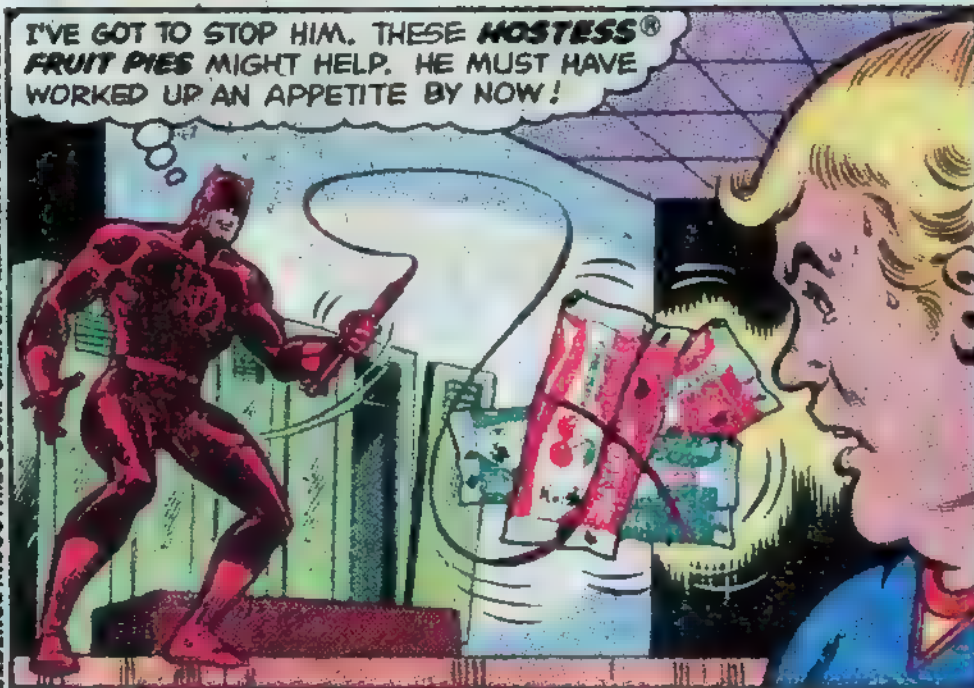
- ☐ CRAZY #82
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #72
- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #29
- ☐ STARBURST #38

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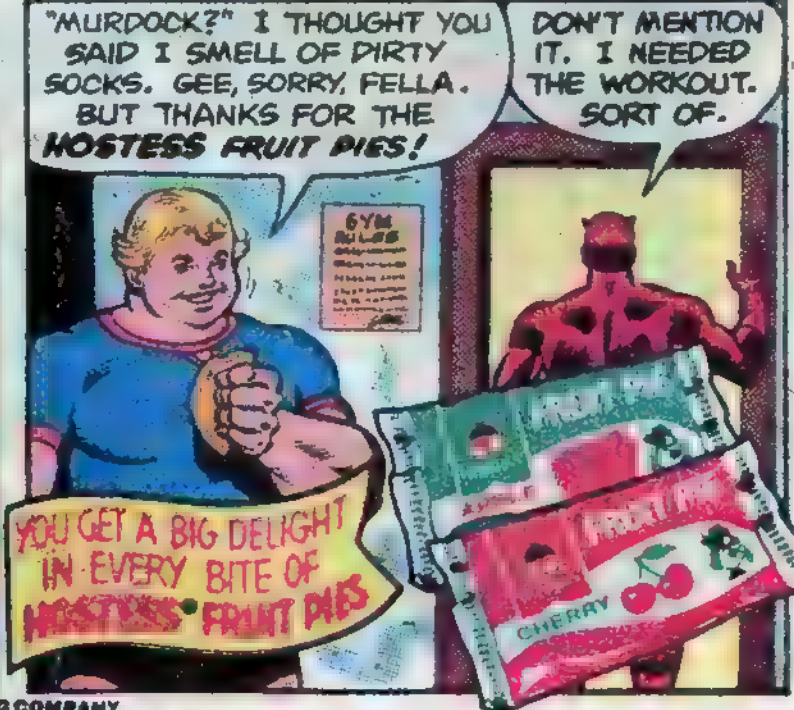
HEY, DAREDEVIL, WHAT WERE WE FIGHTING ABOUT, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW! I JUST ASKED YOU WHAT YOU THINK OF JACK MURDOCK'S RECORD?



"MURDOCK?" I THOUGHT YOU SAID I SMELL OF DIRTY SOCKS. GEE, SORRY, FELLA. BUT THANKS FOR THE **HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!**

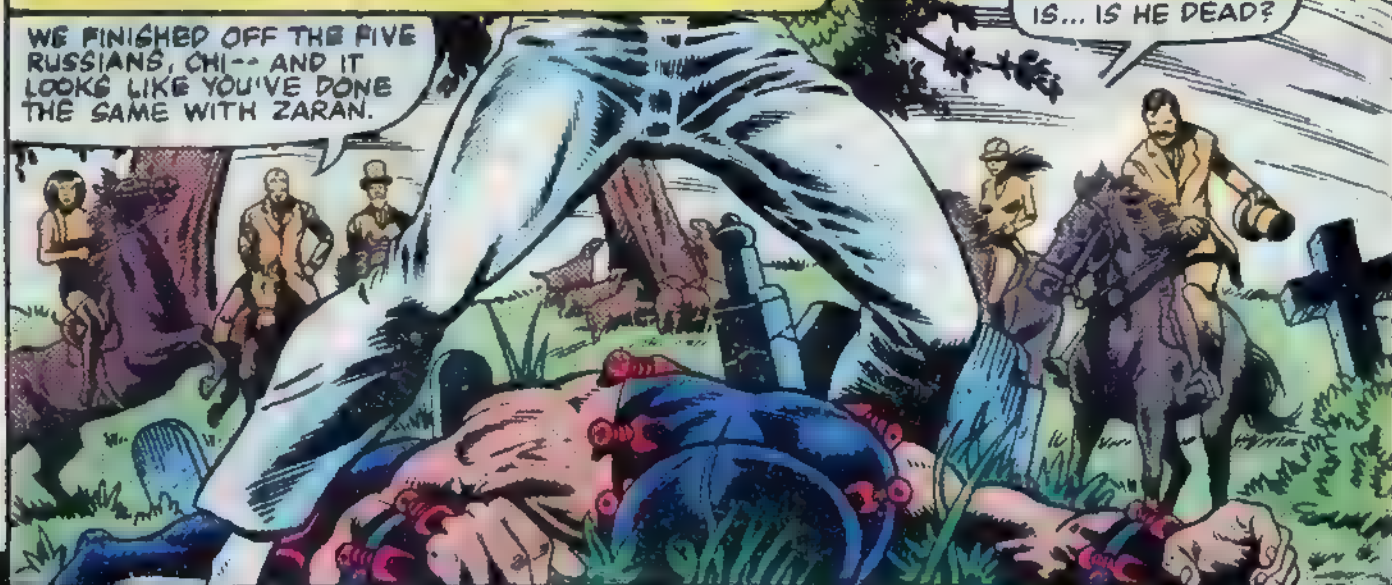
DON'T MENTION IT. I NEEDED THE WORKOUT. SORT OF.



"FOR THE HOUNDS--AND FOR ZARAN AS WELL-- IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY REALIZE THE HUNT IS OVER... AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FOOLS."

WE FINISHED OFF THE FIVE RUSSIANS, CHI-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DONE THE SAME WITH ZARAN.

IS... IS HE DEAD?



WE CAN ONLY HOPE, WU.

THAT HE IS... OR ISN'T?

YOU HAVE YOUR HOPES... I HAVE MINE.

I STILL REMEMBER THE BEATING HE GAVE ME IN CASABLANCA...

"BUT WILL RESTON, LIKE ZARAN, AND THE HOUNDS, FIND HIMSELF A FOOL... NOW THAT HIS HUNT FOR LOVE IS DONE? NOW THAT HE HAS MADE HIS CHOICE?"

WHERE'S THE NEAREST MUSIC MACHINE, SMITH? WHAT WE NEED IS A GOOD STIFF SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES!

"AS DO I, IT CAUSED ME TO NEARLY KILL ZARAN... BUT EVEN NOW, THE WEAPONS MASTER STILL LIVES."

"AND WHAT, THEN--"

"-- DOES MELISSA GREVILLE NEED?"

"NOW THAT THE FOX IS FREE, WHERE WILL SHE RUN?"

NEXT: PERILOUS REIGN!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug,

Re: MASTER OF KUNG FU #104 (as well as the many past experiences of Shang-Chi and friends)...

Another masterful saga ended. Another tortured, twisted twine of life. Like other masters of communicative art, you have created believable characters, breathed into them the spark of life, and plausibly devised their partially developed fates. And each month I try to decipher its full meaning, to see behind the magic of the creation—to analyze just how it's all done, and without mirrors yet! But it is not meant to be, not fully. Magic is not meant to be dissected...

With each word and whisper, Doug, you come closer to being the ultimate in your craft. For 22 pages each month I become totally engulfed in a world I could never create for myself—yet a world I live and breathe in through you. I read your words, I ponder your meanings, I relish your dreams.

This is what true literature was always meant to be, in the highest and fullest sense. Thanks to you and your co-creators Paul, Mike, and now Gene, I have found something precious. Bless you, and please continue on the book forever. You are truly the master of KUNG FU.

Bob Theissen
515 E. 45th St.
Latonia, KY 41015

Gee, and here we thought we were just doin' comics. But seriously, Bob—thanks much!

Dear Doug and Mike,

When I finished reading MOKF #101 — "Not Smoke, Nor Beads, No Blood" — for the first time, I felt somewhat disappointed. Not that it wasn't good — it's just that I could detect nothing truly "classic" about it. But then, thinking that "Doug and Mike would not tell me the story is a classic were it not true." I dug out the prequel — "Smoke, Beads, and Blood" in #76 and reread both stories together, very slowly and deliberately. After finishing I was left breathless and astonished — by the broad scope of your vision, Doug. You and Mike have indeed created a true classic in every sense of the word!

First of all, I loved Mike's cover. I received the distinct impression that someone on that cover would die by story's end, although I wasn't sure who it would be or why. Also, as far as the art goes, I especially liked the moves executed by Shang-Chi on page 21, panels 1-4. When Chi backed into the tree to avoid the Yakuza's blade, and was thereby stunned, only his catlike reflexes and finely honed kung fu skills saved him from possibly fatal injury. Panel 4's side-kick was extremely well placed. Excellent work, Mike!

Although you've already heard it dozens of times, Doug, I'll tell you again — you're simply one of the best writers in the country. And I mean it.

As usual, your title is more than apt for the story; it seems to create or at least evoke a mood and setting all by itself, while also linking it to #76 through a bizarre yin/yang effect. Almost every aspect of #101 is the exact opposite of its counterpart in #76, yet each depends on the other to create a truly unified effect.

Finally, I think it was a bit cruel — but nevertheless poignantly ironic — to have the old man die just as Shang-Chi defeated the last Yakuza. I'm just glad Leiko was there in the room to conceal from Shang the true reason for the old man's death. Knowing the truth, Chi would have been utterly crushed. Or would he...?

Your endings are always masterpieces. The crowning stroke for this issue is no exception. "Yes...so easy...to do...what we must." (As easy as pulling "...such a thin thread...to such a dead machine.")

Touché, Doug and Mike!

Michael Bourda
602 Centerwood
Houston, TX

Dear Doug, Gene, and Mike,

Please accept this humble letter in the spirit it is written, and accept my thanks for the latest issue of MOKF. I've followed the book for some sixty-odd issues now, and I've been moved and uplifted many times. The art has been consistently flowing and graceful, the stories always infused with spirit and soul as well as action and mood. And yet, until now, I've never sent in a letter of comment.

AIN'T SHE SWEET?



SPIDER-WOMAN

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Each time I read the letters page I see my own feelings precisely registered by others. But this time I'm moved to express myself.

Thank you for MASTER OF KUNG FU. And here's why: I have reveled in Clive Reston and his shadowy father; I've nearly suffered heart attacks guffawing over the antics of Rufus T. Hackstaber; and, most of all, I have truly marveled at the skill and spirit of Shang-Chi himself. He has acquired wisdom far beyond his years, Doug, and in passing it on to us, he has caused our own spirits to rise and advance. I know mine has, and I will continue to read this book as long as a certain Douglas Moench continues to write it.

When Paul Gulacy left the book, I was afraid that no one could ever compare to what had gone before. His figures flowed with dynamic movement, and the book was a visual masterpiece of brooding backgrounds and intricately conveyed atmosphere. And, wonder of wonders, it still is. Gene and Mike have captured Shang-Chi and company as they *should* be portrayed, and the most recent art is perhaps the best in the book's star-spangled history. I nearly gasped at Gene's incredible splash page, and my enthusiasm carried all the way through to the end.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow readers, those who have conveyed my own feelings through their highly articulate thoughts. As long as such a devoted following exists, I know this book will be produced at its highest possible level. If this is our sole contribution, as passive as it is...perhaps it is the most important of all.

Greg T. Garrett
423 N. Maryella
Mustang, OK 73064

Indeed it is, Greg. Without you folks, our stories would have no need to leave the shadows of our skulls. Thanks for letting our imaginations out for walks in the sun. See you in 30 days, People!

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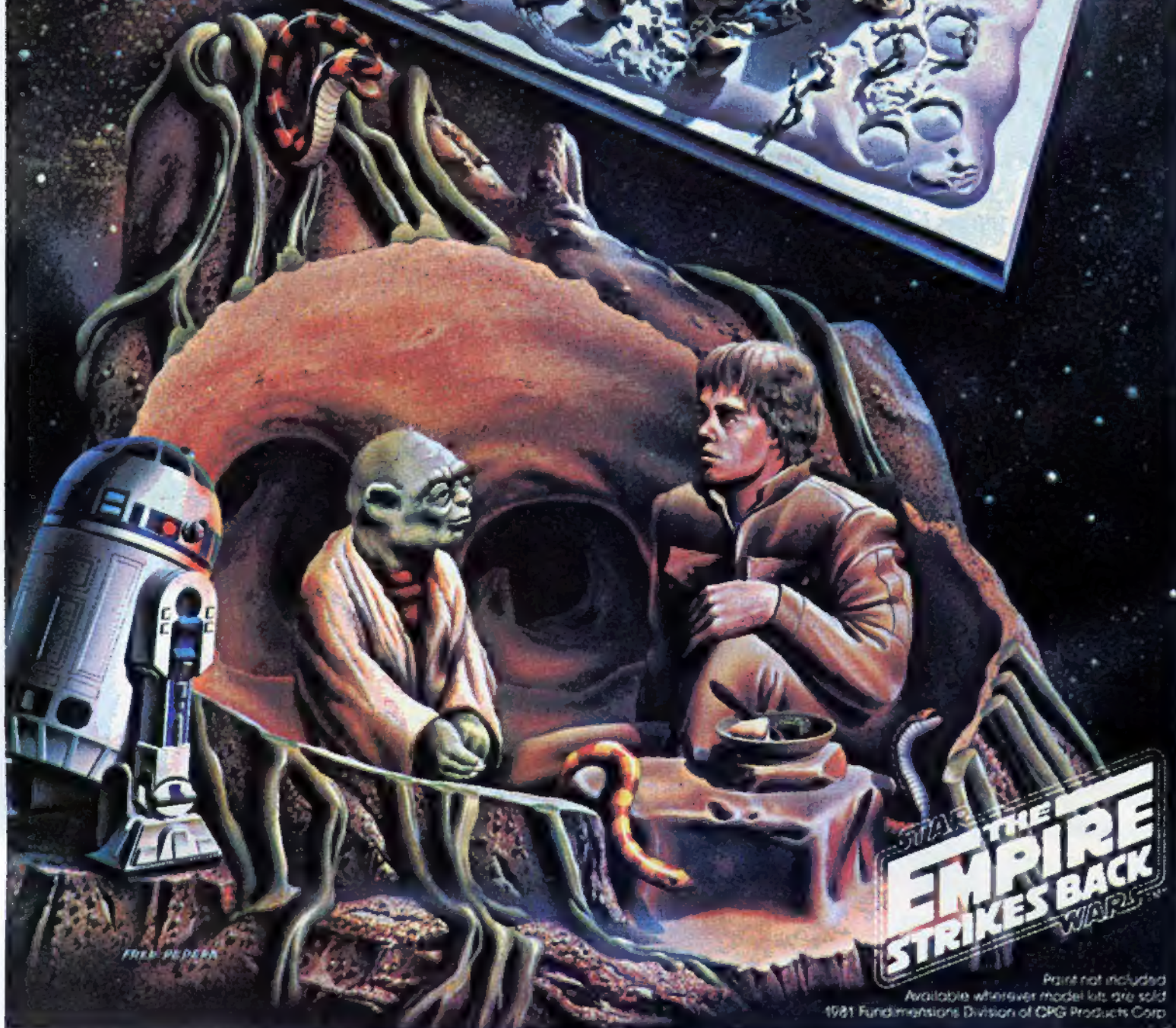
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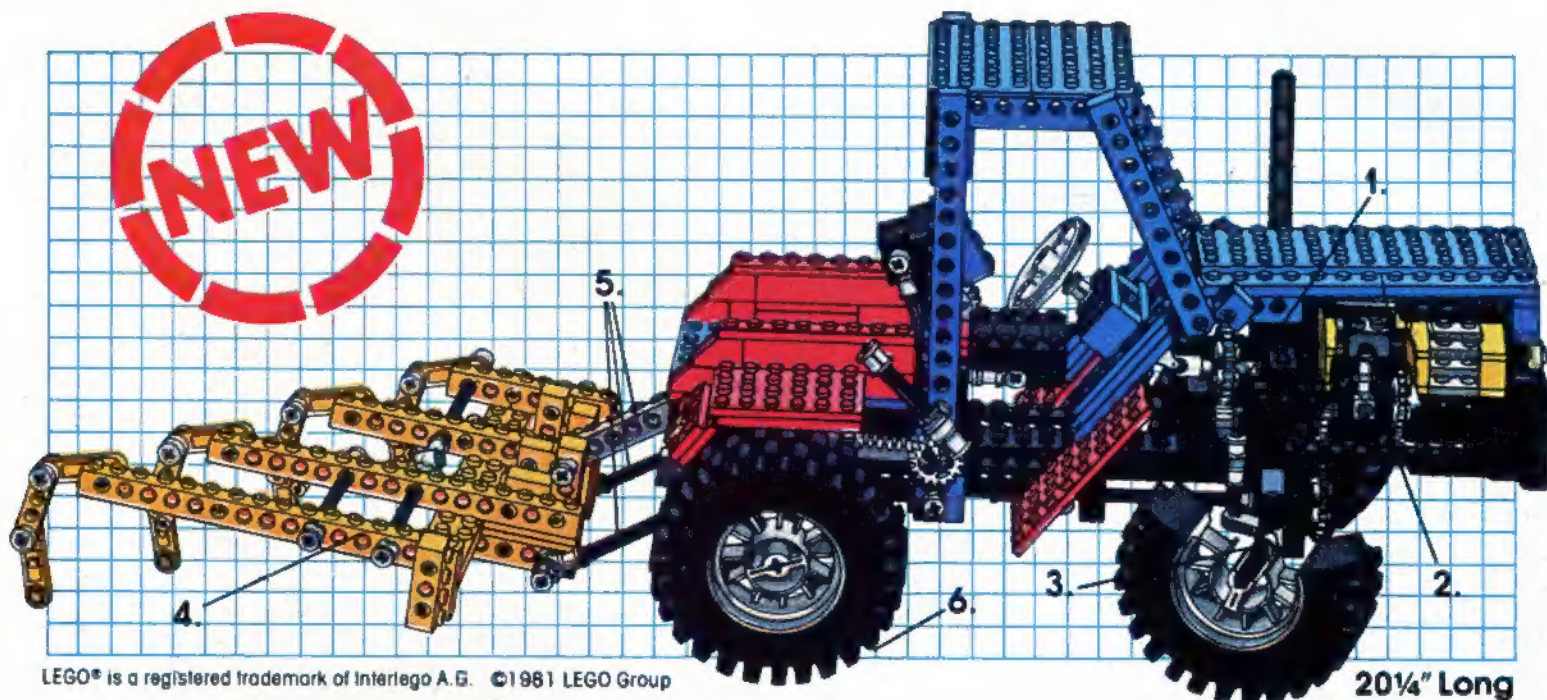


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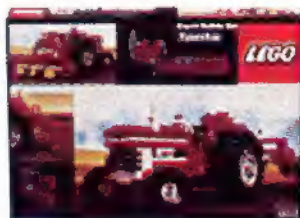
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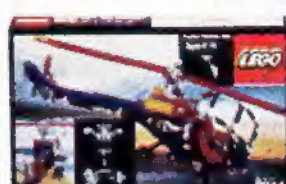


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